

The Problem of Evil and Suffering

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Who's asking?

The skeptic?



Someone who is hurting?



Logical form of the problem of evil

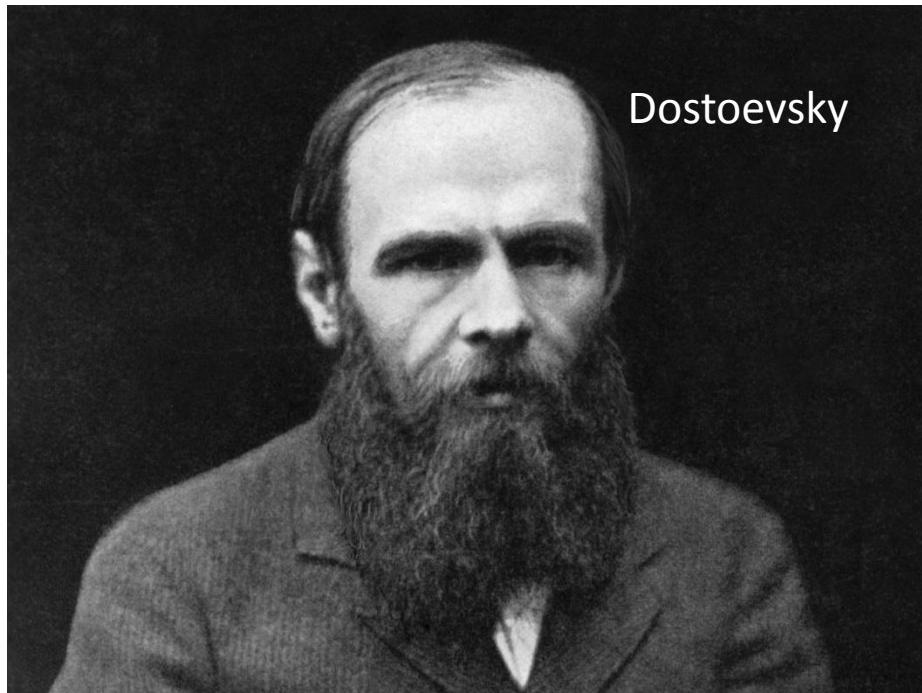
Premises

1. If God exists, God is all-powerful
2. If God exists, God is good
- 3. An all-powerful, good God would not allow evil to exist
4. Evil exists

Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

“Evil” exists?



Dostoevsky

Logical form of the problem of evil

Premises

1. If God exists, God is all-powerful
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Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

If I were God...

1. If I were God, I would prevent evil from happening.
2. Evil does happen.
3. Therefore God does not exist



Is it possible that we don't know what God would do?

Theodicy

Be cautious about speculation.

Genesis 50:20. “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

Modified form of the problem of evil

Premises

1. If God exists, God is all-powerful
2. If God exists, God is good
3. An all-powerful, good God would not allow unnecessary evil to exist
4. Unnecessary evil exists

Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

The “Google image search” problem

Google black rhino

All News Images Videos Shopping More Search tools View saved Safe Search

eastern western southern northern africa namibia south africa west africa uganda malawi horned rhino oxpecker sumatran chester zoo zoo san diego >

This image shows a Google search results page for "black rhino" using the "Images" tab. The search bar at the top contains "black rhino". Below the search bar, there are navigation links: All, News, Images (which is underlined), Videos, Shopping, More, and Search tools. To the right of these are buttons for View saved, Safe Search, and a gear icon for settings. A horizontal row of filters follows, with colored backgrounds indicating active filters: eastern (teal), western (teal), southern (teal), northern (teal), africa (teal), namibia (teal), south africa (teal), west africa (teal), uganda (teal), malawi (blue), horned (blue), rhino (blue), oxpecker (blue), sumatran (blue), chester zoo (light blue), zoo (light blue), and san diego (purple). Below these filters is a grid of 15 images of rhinos. The images are arranged in two rows: the top row has five images, and the bottom row has six images. The images show various black rhinos in different environments, including savannas, forests, and zoos.

The Bible Agrees!

- The world is full of sorrows
- What's the proper Christian response to a tragedy?
 - “How long O Lord?”
 - World is fallen and under judgment – This is a result of Sin (Luke 13:1-5)
 - We haven't seen the whole story yet

The Personal Response

- Why do people bring up the Problem of Evil?
 - Intellectual arguments?
 - Or personal struggle?
- The real question is “Does God care?”

Abraham & Isaac



I'll tell you something; if I was told to sacrifice [my children] to prove my devotion to God....and admire the man who said, "**Yes, I'll gut my kid to show my love of God,**" I'd say,
"No. F--- you."

-Christopher
Hitchens



The Luthers' discussion



The Luthers' discussion



Point to the Gospel

- God the son enters into the suffering and redeems it.
 - He fixes our problem of evil
 - Whatever God's reasons are, we know that God cares
- We haven't seen the whole story yet.

“Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor 15:54)

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” (1 Thess 4:13)